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Review of Dissertation Work

Student/Author: Md. Ahsan Habib, EMSEN study program

Supervisor/Tutor: Libor Novosad, MSc. PhD.

Dissertation Theme: An Investigation into the Role of Pedagogical Counsellor in the Education of Children with SEN in the Mainstream Primary Schools of Central Prague

Academic year: 2008 - 2009

Summary:

The work is focused on the research of the role of Pedagogical Counsellor in the process of inclusive school education of pupils with SEN.

I do not have any basic remarks on formal part of the work. The text is worked out very carefully, it is sub-structured digestedly and in logic sequences. The theoretical base of good quality of the author's work is documented with a number of quotations and references (though not so rich referring to the Czech sources).

As far the **content** respect it can be said that the author put a lot of effort on this task which is determinated with a very disadvantaging surroundings for him – language barrier, time possibilities, terminology differences, local extent of the research, etc. From the methodology point of view it is necessary to appreciate the orderliness with which the author was working.

Starting from the bringing into the topic (incl. historical excursus into the genesis of education of children with SEN and characteristics of facilitating and counselling services for these pupils in Great Britain, Netherlands and the Czech Republic), analyses of relevant literary sources, formulation of research questions and limitation of inquiry methods, evaluation of gained facts he comes to summary and comments on the research and recommendations flowing out from it.

The work contributes to understanding of professional and competency differences among counselling staff for pupils with SEN in GB, NL and CZ and it also brings incentive findings relating to the role and changing position of a pedagogical counsellor in the Czech Republic.

Anyway, the objective findings cannot be generalized with respect to below stated "limits" of the research but in spite of this it can be expected that the whole process of processing of this work and the facts or data, which were accented, can be further on exploited in professional practice not in Bangladesh only.

Remarks:

- Author delimitates correctly the difference between medical and social models of disabilities and he enunciates that the medical model oriented on the description of damage, disability and limitation of all what the individual is unable to manage, in what he is limited, is not very acceptable in the school practice. The facilitation of pupils with SEN should be oriented on the compensation of those individual difficulties that obstruct or impede pupil's education and socialization.

- Certain limit of the work is a partial language incompatibility (especially in the case of questionnaires and interviews) and a small research sample (number of respondents). Nevertheless – with respect to this fact as well as the real possibilities of the author – the presented work can be considered as acceptable and valid.

Evaluation:

Author did not miss any initiative, ability of critical analysis and systematic effort to reach acceptable, trustworthy results. Also his collaboration with his supervisor was effective. The supervisory back-feed was under way continuously from March 2009. In spite of mentioned partial limitations I evaluate the work with the mark/degree 1.

Questions for Defense/Discussion:

- 1) You mention double role of the pedagogical counsellor at school in your work – he works as a teacher and a counsellor. What are the positives and negatives (possible risks) of this double role?
- 2) Try to formulate possibilities which has the Czech pedagogical counsellor at the support of the inclusive education and solution of possible problems. Can you state some examples?
- 3) Consider if the name "school counsellor" might be more attractive or less stigmatising for the user than the name "pedagogical counsellor"

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